

10 June 2020

Dear Families

I am writing to you in advance of Year 10 students returning for face-to-face teaching and to explain the process and procedures for ensuring that we can manage this with the clarity required to ensure the safety of our community.

Groupings

Students who choose to return will do so in ‘bubbles’ (smaller, self-contained groups). These bubbles will remain isolated from each other and will have specific staff allocated to them who will remain with them throughout the duration of these arrangements. Staff and students will be unable to move between bubbles and they will remain self-contained in order to reduce the chances of transmission between groups. Each bubble will have a specific day and set times to be in the academy. If anyone within the bubble falls ill, we will notify members of that bubble that we will ‘stand down’ the group until isolation protocol has been followed and the group is safe to return to face-to-face contact.

The nature of provision

We will be offering three days of provision, **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**. This will be limited to PSHE, English, Maths and Science. **Each bubble will be in the academy for one day every week.** The hours of operation will be 9am to 12.30pm. Students will then go home. You will be contacted by a member of the Senior Leadership team by telephone to let you know which day your child is expected to attend. They must not attend the academy on any other day. **If you have not heard from us by 12noon on Friday 12 June, please contact the academy.**

Safety protocol and measures for attending the academy

Students must arrive at the academy from 8.30am – **access to the academy site will not be granted prior to this time:**

- Students will form a queue on the academy site, **observing 2m social distancing**
- Students will be admitted to the building one at a time, following a temperature check using a thermal imaging camera
- They will then follow handwashing and sanitising protocol before entering the teaching space
- **All students will have an allocated seat and desk with equipment available.** They will not be required to bring anything and will not be granted access to lockers
- **This space will be deep cleaned every evening, and on Mondays / Fridays**
- Students will leave the academy one at a time
- They will be escorted to the end of the academy drive and **expected to return home immediately**

We will not be able to facilitate social times or a visit to the canteen. We will provide water and short breaks in between the sessions. Unfortunately students will be unable to leave their seats once they are in the teaching space, aside from visits to the toilet.

Curriculum

In most cases, students will be provided with work to complete at home in all subjects. The face-to-face provision will focus on PSHE / Social and Emotional support (including support for how to work better from home) and English, maths and Science provision from subject specialists. Heads of departments



have been planning material to deliver to students in addition to providing resources to take home to continue their studies. These resources will then be expected to be brought in to school for their session the following week. All departments are currently planning a 'recovery curriculum' that will focus on preparing all students for their exams from September, when we hope to be fully open.

Uniform expectations

We **will not be expecting students to wear full uniform when they attend**. We ask that they wear only their black school trousers and their school shirt, or their Dixons Unity Academy PE Kit. They will not be expected to wear a blazer or a tie. They can wear an academy jumper if they wish. We recommend that all clothes are washed at 60 degrees as soon as your child returns home from school and that they wear their clean clothes the following week when they return to the academy.

Behaviour expectations

It is vital that students observe our usual high expectations around behaviour. **Firstly, all safety measures must be observed**. If we feel that any student is putting themselves or others at risk, they may have to work in isolation from others, or we may contact you to ask that they work from home for the rest of the day. They will then be able to return to their bubble the following week – as long as they agree to follow expectations.

Our usual behaviour policy will be followed in relation to learning behaviours. We will follow learning modes and expect that students remain on task and do not answer back. This is vital in ensuring that teaching and learning is as effective as possible.

The sanction steps will be:

- Verbal Warning
- Planner Warning
- One-to-one discussion with SLT / Pastoral support to explain expectations
- Student to work in isolation from other students
- As a last resort, we may ask that your child works from home for the rest of the day

Pastoral Support

There will be a member of the pastoral team attached to each bubble who can offer support to any students with anxieties or pressure they may be feeling in addition to being there to support teachers with any lapses in behaviour or failure to follow safety rules on site. We will also have a member of our attendance team, first aid and child protection provision on site at all times. There is also a member of the Senior Leadership team attached to each bubble.

Our thanks

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over the past three months. This is a very difficult time for everyone; not least our young people. We will do everything we can as a school to support them and will work tirelessly to prepare them for their GCSEs next year. We cannot do this alone and we thank you for your partnership in ensuring that we can safely and sensibly begin to return to some form of face-to-face education for our students.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

